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Co-operative farms

* 955 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have any specific scheme for promoting the creation of co-operative farms in the National Extension Service and Community Project areas; and

(b) how many State-aided co-operative farms are now working in the State?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) There are 30 State Aided Land Colonisation Societies in the State—22 for Harijans and the landless poor and 6 for ex-Servicemen organized in Government lands and 2 organized in private lands taken on long-term lease."

Sea erosion near Palakkode, Chirakkal taluk

* 956 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been sea erosion continuously for the past two years near Palakkode bar near Puthiyangadi in Madayi firka in Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to stop further sea erosion in the area and to prevent damages to the properties of the people residing in the locality?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) The damages were not so serious as to necessitate any immediate remedial measures by Government."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, I do not know where the Hon. Minister got the information that the damages were not serious. I myself went to the place and found that property worth Rs. 15 lakhs were damaged due to sea erosion and about 2,000 coconut trees were washed away. Something has to be done urgently as sea water is rushing and submerging so many acres of land, resulting in heavy and grave loss of property. Sea water may extend upto Pazayamadu Railway Station; that is the position. In view of all this, may I request the Hon. Minister to make an enquiry into the matter? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sir, the only source for us to get information is from the Collector and the Collector has stated that some portions of the land and a few—*a few*—coconut trees were washed away due to erosion and an acre and a half of private land and foreshore were submerged; the river had also altered its course on account of erosion. Then the Chief Engineer,

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Public Works Department stated that the damages by sea erosion were not so serious as to necessitate remedial measures. In view of the reports of these two officers, I do not know how the hon. Member says that the damage has been very grave and so on. Well, I have got to verify that and ask the officers once again. That is all.''

Temple tanks in the City

* 957 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to cleanse the temple tanks in the City of Madras and pump out the stagnant water?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—'' The tanks attached to Sri Parthasarathiswami temple at Triplicane and Sri Kapaleeswarar temple at Mylapore are being cleaned by the Corporation of Madras periodically with reference to the arrangements entered into by these temples with the Corporation. As regards tanks attached to other temples, the Commissioner is taking action in consultation with the authorities of the temples.''

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—'' Sir, for a long time many representations have been made to Government with regard to cleansing of such tanks. Will Government expedite disposal of such representations? ''

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—'' Yes, Sir. So far as these two temples are concerned, they are being cleaned periodically by the Corporation of Madras.

With regard to other temples, the Deputy Commissioner, Tanjore, has reported that eleven tanks have got to be cleaned while the Deputy Commissioner, Coimbatore, has stated that ten tanks have to be cleaned. They are being looked into and they will be expedited.''

SRI P. S. NALLA GOUNDER :—'' பொதுவாக, இந்த ராஜ்யத்திலுள்ள எல்லாக் கோயில்களையும் சேர்ந்த குளங்களை மாதமொரு முறை சுத்தம் செய்ய ஏற்பாடு செய்யப்படுமா ? ''

MR. SPEAKER :—'' This is about tanks in the City. If the Hon. Minister is prepared to answer, I have no objection.''

SRI S. PANCHAKSHARAM :—'' Will the Hon. Minister tell me whether the cost of cleansing temple tanks is borne by the Corporation or the temple authorities concerned? ''

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—'' By the Corporation of Madras, so far as the City is concerned.''